This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method comprising:

generating a policy digest for a cached policy [[at]] that applies to a client, the policy digest identifying at least one assertion the client is complying with; and

including the policy digest in a request by the client to access a resource.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes generating a hash of the cached policy.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes encoding a bit vector identifying selected assertions from the cached policy.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes reading an assertion from the policy, assigning a bit value to the assertion, and writing the bit value to a bit vector.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes generating a hash of the cached policy if the cached policy is normalized.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

incrementing a counter each time the cached policy is used; and

removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter exceeds a limit value.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

incrementing a counter for the cached policy when a fault is received at the client in response to using the cached policy; and

removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter exceeds a limit value.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising logging a diagnostic event when a fault is received at the client to identify a system problem.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method comprising:

extracting at a host a policy digest identifying a cached policy that applies to a client, the policy digest included in a request to access a resource; and

denying access to the resource if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising issuing a fault for the client if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising decoding the policy digest.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising decoding a bit vector of the cached policy.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising reading an assertion from the policy digest.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising reading a row hash of the cached policy.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A system comprising:

a policy digest identifying at least one cached policy that applies to a client; and

a messaging module denying access to a resource if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy for the resource.

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging module extracts the policy digest from a message requesting access to the resource.

Claim 17 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging module decodes the policy digest.

Claim 18 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the policy digest is a bit vector of a cached policy.

Claim 19 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the policy digest is a row hash of a normalized policy.

Claim 20 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the policy digest identifies at least one selected assertion.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A system comprising:

a policy digest for a cached policy [[at]] that applies to a client, the policy digest identifying at least one assertion the client is complying with; and

a messaging module including the policy digest in a request by the client to access a resource.

Claim 22 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the messaging module encodes the policy digest.

Claim 23 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the policy digest is a bit vector of a cached policy.

Claim 24 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the policy digest is a row hash of a normalized policy.

Claim 25 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the policy digest identifies at least one assertion selected by the client.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A computer program product encoding a computer program for executing on a computer system a computer process, the computer process comprising:

generating a policy digest for a cached policy [[at]] that applies to a client, the policy digest identifying at least one assertion the client is complying with; and

including the policy digest in a request by the client to access a resource.

Claim 27 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises generating a hash of the cached policy.

Claim 28 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises encoding a bit vector of the cached policy.

Claim 29 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises reading an assertion from the policy, assigning a bit value to the assertion, and writing the bit value to a bit vector.

Claim 30 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises generating a row hash of the cached policy if the cached policy is normalized.

Claim 31 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the computer process further comprises:

incrementing a counter each time the cached policy is used; and

removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter exceeds a limit value.

Claim 32 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises:

incrementing a counter for the cached policy when a fault is received at the client in response to using the cached policy; and

removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter exceeds a limit value.

Claim 33 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises triggering a diagnostic event when a fault is received at the client.

Claim 34 (Currently amended): A computer program product encoding a computer program for executing on a computer system a computer process, the computer process comprising:

extracting at a host a policy digest identifying a cached policy that applies to a client, the policy digest included in a request to access a resource; and

denying access to the resource if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy.

Claim 35 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the computer process further comprises decoding the policy digest.

Claim 36 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the computer process further comprises decoding a bit vector of the cached policy.

Claim 37 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the computer process further comprises reading an assertion from the policy digest.

Claim 38 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the computer process further comprises reading a row hash of the cached policy if the cached policy is normalized.